

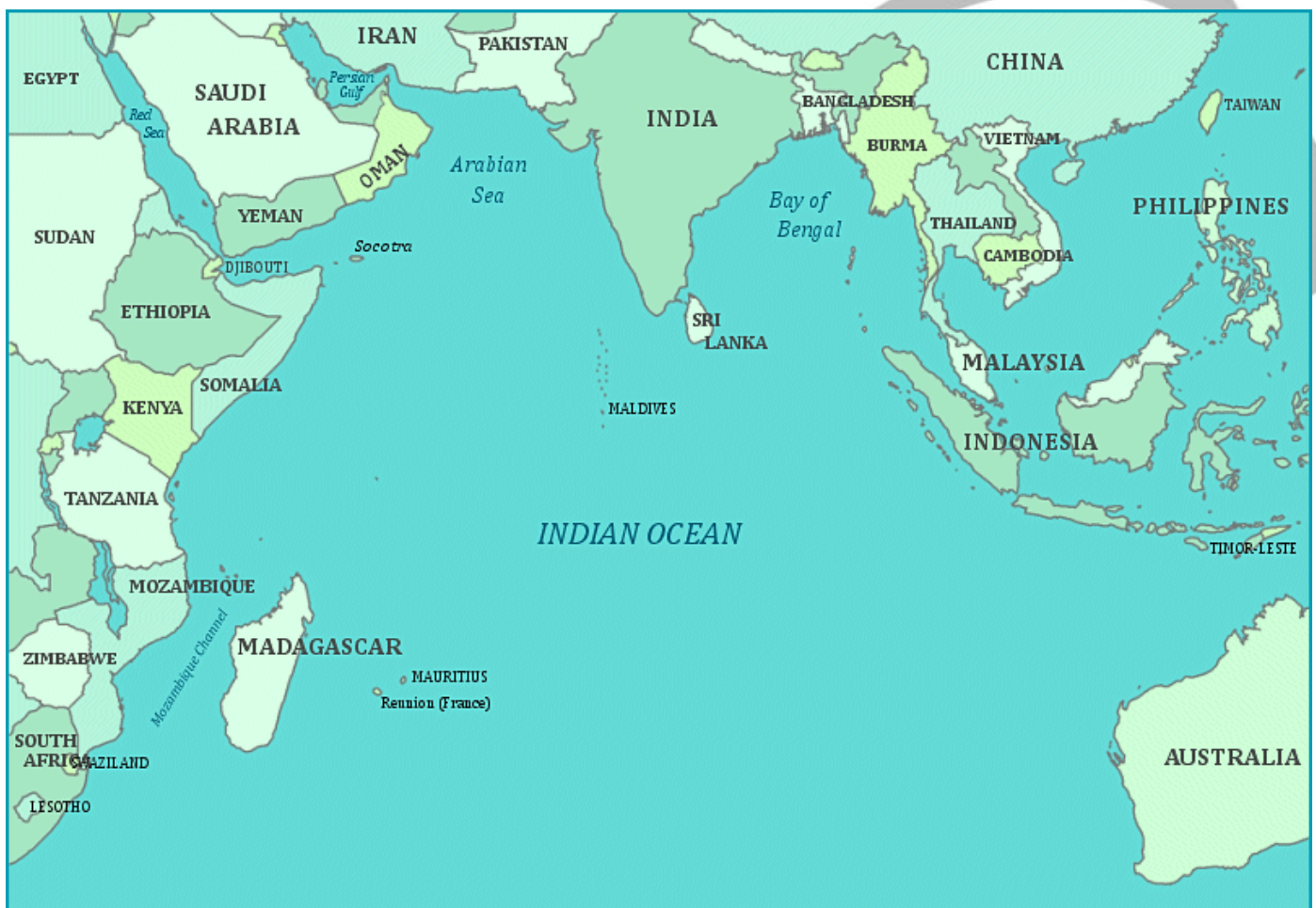


## 8th Indian Ocean Conference

Source: IE

### Why in News?

India's External Affairs minister S Jaishankar represented India in the **8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC)** held in **Muscat, Oman** with the theme '**Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership**'.



### What is the Indian Ocean Conference?

- **About:** IOC is an annual summit bringing together **leaders, policymakers, and experts** from the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** to discuss **geopolitical, economic, and security** challenges.
  - It was established by the **India Foundation** (India based **think tank**) in **2016** in **Singapore** with participation from **30 countries**.
- **Objective:** It aims to unite key states and maritime partners in the IOR to enhance **regional cooperation** under the vision of **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**.

# SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) Vision

Launched in 2015 for regional security, sustainable growth, and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region

## Core Principles

- Trust, respect for maritime norms, regional sensitivity, peaceful dispute resolution, & cooperation
- Aligns with India's Act East Policy & Neighbourhood First policy

## Significance of IOR for India

- **Economic Vitality:** 95% of India's trade by volume & 68% of trade by value
- **Strategic Leverage:** Controls key maritime chokepoints (e.g. Strait of Malacca), boosting trade security
- **Defense Shield:** Enhances naval security against piracy & threats
- **Regional Influence:** Strengthens India's role in South Asia and Indo-Pacific

## Major Initiatives of India Aligning with the SAGAR Vision



# What is the Indian Ocean Region?

- **About:** IOR refers to the region around the **Indian Ocean**, including the **countries that border it**.
  - It spans from the [Strait of Malacca](#) and **western Australia** in the east to the [Mozambique Channel](#) in the west.
  - It covers about **20% of the world's water surface**, a **quarter of the world's landmass**, and **three-quarters of global oil reserves**.
- **Strategic Importance:**
  - **Economic Significance:** Approximately **80% of global maritime oil** and **80% of India's oil imports** pass through the Indian Ocean annually.
  - **Key Choke Points:**
    - **Strait of Malacca** (connects Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean).
    - **Strait of Hormuz** (connects the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean; crucial for global oil transport).
    - **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait** (connects the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, impacting trade with Africa and the Middle East).
    - **Mozambique Channel** (important for goods transiting from the Cape of Good Hope to the Middle East and Asia).
  - **Military Significance:** It is home to key **naval bases** and faces **maritime security concerns** like piracy, illegal fishing, and territorial dispute.
  - **Critical Minerals:** The [Central Indian Ocean Basin \(CIOB\)](#) is estimated to hold vast reserves of **nickel, copper, cobalt, and manganese**.

Click Here to Read: [What are the Major Challenges Related to the Indian Ocean Region?, How to Deal with Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region?](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS): (2017)**

1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (b)**

**Q. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements: (2015)**

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only.

**Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (d)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/8th-indian-ocean-conference>

